

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1008
By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Patty Littlejohn on
being presented the 2003 Presidential Award for
Excellence in Mathematics and Science
Teaching.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the
highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Patty Littlejohn, a seventh grade Science Teacher at Freedom Middle
School, is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the
greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Littlejohn has recently been presented with the 2003 Presidential Award
for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, an honor most befitting her outstanding
tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives;
and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Award for Excellence, sponsored by the National Science
Foundation, was established in 1983 by the White House to honor those individuals nationwide
who serve as exemplary math and science teachers; the goal of the award is to expand and
exemplify the definition of excellent science and mathematics teaching; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, a videotape of Ms. Littlejohn's Science
Class on photosynthesis and reverse cellular respiration was submitted along with a written
explanation of how the lesson related to national standards and reasoning for the strategies
used; and

WHEREAS, a 29-year veteran teacher, Ms. Littlejohn recently received National Board
Certification after going through a rigorous process which required her to re-evaluate her
teaching and develop new methodologies for reaching her students; and

WHEREAS, described by Freedom Middle School Principal Kristi Jefferson as a "standout science teacher" who "is always looking for ways to bring the subject of science to life and to reach every ability level of our students," Ms. Littlejohn is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, highly devoted to her students, Ms. Littlejohn's love of science and teaching extends beyond the conventional classroom as she has spent every summer for the past 15 years leading students on two-week explorations of the Western United States; she has also initiated several Parent Science Nights in which students had the opportunity to team up with their parents to conduct science experiments; and

WHEREAS, as a Presidential Awardee, Ms. Littlejohn attended recognition events in Washington, D.C. which included an Award Ceremony, a Presidential Citation, meetings with leaders in government and education, professional development sessions, and receptions and banquets honoring the recipients; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Littlejohn is most deserving of such a prestigious honor as she has been unwavering in her mission of inspiring each of her students to leave her class with the same love of science that she has; and

WHEREAS, truly serving as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, Ms. Littlejohn's friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Patty Littlejohn truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Patty Littlejohn on being presented with the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.